



EMC News

March 2, 2000

Volume 7, No. 3

Coordinator's Report

EMC Quarterly Reports to Municipalities

As a part of our ongoing effort to improve communication, EMC municipal representatives are required to report quarterly to their municipal board on EMC activities. To aid this process, I have summarized information in a bulleted list intended to provide a brief overview of significant EMC activities or accomplishments during the last three months that may be of interest to your municipality. Please feel free to use it as a guide when providing a verbal report. Members should receive a copy of the quarterly report in this mailing. We will discuss further distribution of this report at the March meeting.



Municipal Reports to the EMC

Similar to the quarterly reports mentioned above, municipal members are also required to provide the EMC with a quarterly update of ongoing activities or issues in their municipality. Two of these reports are to be presented verbally at the monthly EMC meetings, and two can be submitted in writing for publication in the *EMC News*. I have created a schedule that spaces each report by approximately two months, alternating verbal and written reports. I will distribute the schedule at the March meeting, along with a form that can be used to submit a written report for submission to the EMC News.

Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian

Environmental Review Committee Report

The Environmental Review Committee met on February 22, 2000. Guests attending the meeting included Donna Connery and Liz Cameron from Cornell University and Martin Brand, a senior engineering geologist with NYSDEC (Albany) who is working with Cornell University on the Radiation Disposal Site (RDS) remedial investigation and Feasibility Study. Mr. Brand answered questions from the committee about the ongoing process and the Technical and Administrative Guidance Memorandum (TAGM) used to evaluate alternatives for RDS remediation. Mr. Brand is responsible for the preparation of the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP), which he indicated may be available in the next few weeks. Mr. Brand assured the committee that whatever the final timing of the PRAP release, the EMC could request an extension to the usual 30-day review period if we felt it would be necessary. The committee chose to table further discussion of the issue until release of the PRAP, which is said to be a user-friendly document.

The committee also tabled discussion on the NYSDEC and EPA responses to our most recent correspondence concerning

the Lake Source Cooling project until all new members have had an opportunity to review the pertinent paperwork. Among the potential responses considered was the revival of a letter, drafted by Kristin Rowles in 1998, which focused on the issue of compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Barbara Ebert reported on the final committee letter sent to the City of Ithaca regarding the Southwest Area dGEIS. The committee discussed possibly commenting on the *Southwest Area Design Guidelines*, posted on the City's web site at <www.ci.ithaca.ny.us/plans/swdesign>. The committee will continue this discussion in March.

Also on the agenda for the future is the environmental impact statement for Duffield Hall (Cornell University), for which scoping is underway. The committee refrained from adding to the scoping outline, as the City of Ithaca's Conservation Advisory Council is taking an active role in this matter.

The next Environmental Review Committee meeting is Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 PM in the Old Jail Conference Room.

Submitted by Barbara Ebert

Library Solar Panel Committee Report

The Library Solar Panel Committee (formed at the February meeting) met with County Engineer, Jim Kazda, to discuss the proposal to install a 147-kilowatt photovoltaic system on the roof of the new County library. During Mr.



Kazda's presentation to the BOR on February 15, 2000, he recommended that the committee report on the environmental and educational benefits of solar electricity. BOR Chair Barbara Mink is providing the committee with thirty minutes at the next BOR meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2000, to present this information and answer questions.

Submitted by Stephen Nicholson

Water Resources Committee Report

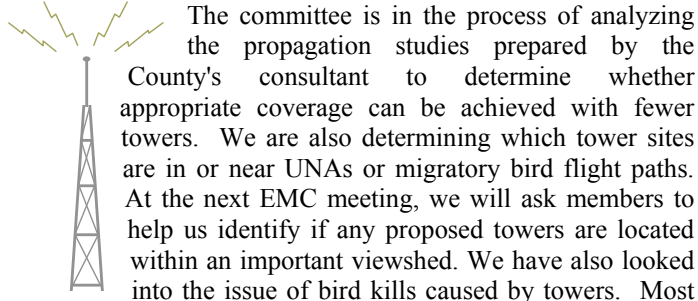
At the Water Resources Committee's second meeting, Jean Foley and Peter Newell reported on the Jacksonville Community Association meeting they attended. The purpose of this meeting was to prepare for the February 24, 2000, meeting with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, County Department of Health, Town of Ulysses, state and local legislators, and other interested groups, to discuss strategies for future action to address Jacksonville's water pollution problem.

The committee reviewed the Water Resources Council/BOR-PIRE subcommittee report proposing a restructuring of the County's Water Resources Council (WRC). The committee noted that because the EMC is a "county-supported organization" dealing with water resources, that a fifth slot should be added to that category, specifically providing the EMC with a permanent voting seat on the WRC and the committee unanimously recommends this be done. As currently proposed, the EMC would instead be considered for an "environmental" slot, competing with other organizations, including the Finger Lakes Land Trust and municipal Conservation Advisory Councils, for a single seat. The restructuring proposal will be discussed at the EMC's General Meeting in March.

Last, but not least, Jean Foley agreed to serve as interim committee chair.

Submitted by Peter Newell and Dooley Kiefer

County Towers Committee Report



The committee is in the process of analyzing the propagation studies prepared by the County's consultant to determine whether appropriate coverage can be achieved with fewer towers. We are also determining which tower sites are in or near UNAs or migratory bird flight paths. At the next EMC meeting, we will ask members to help us identify if any proposed towers are located within an important viewshed. We have also looked into the issue of bird kills caused by towers. Most

kills happen with guyed, lit towers, because the lights attract migrating birds on foggy nights and they fly into the guy wires. We contacted Bill Evans, who is conducting research on this issue. He informed us guyed, UNLIT towers are not of particular concern for bird kills in Tompkins County as long as they aren't near wetlands. After analyzing the tower locations, we may recommend that the County build guyed towers at certain locations instead of self-supporting towers to minimize the visual impact.

The committee elected Susan Brock as its chair. Our next meeting is March 7 at 1 PM in the Planning Department's basement conference room.

Submitted by Susan Brock

Unique Natural Areas Committee Report

The UNA Inventory has been finalized and is now undergoing digital re-modification for the ease of printing. Hopefully, copies will be available by the end of March. Committee members are putting together a slide show that will be used for presenting the information to the BOR and municipalities. The presentation to the BOR is scheduled for March 21, 2000, and presentations to the municipalities will be coordinated shortly thereafter.

Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian

Announcements

PBS Special: Greener at Home

The Public Broadcasting Station WSKG-TV in Binghamton, New York, will air a six-part weekly television special entitled "*Greener at Home*." The series will run on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. beginning on February 26, running through April 1, 2000. *Greener at Home* is designed to encourage awareness of watersheds, and household management techniques that help protect water. The program will feature several Cornell Cooperative Extension educators during the live broadcasts, with many more appearing in pre-produced videotaped segments. The airdate and series program are as follows:

February 26	What We Need to Know About Wells
March 4	Water Quality and Household Waste
March 11	Household Hazardous Chemicals
March 18	On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems
March 25	Controlling Runoff
April 1	Conservation Landscaping

For more information on *Greener at Home*, contact USDA State Extension Water Quality Coordinator, Deb Grantham, by telephone at 607-255-4931, or E-mail: dgg3@cornell.edu.



Upcoming Verbal Municipal Reports

April 12

T. Newfield, T. Ulysses, V. Cayuga Heights

May 10

V. Dryden, V. Freeville, V. Groton, C. Ithaca

June 14

T. Danby, T. Dryden, T. Lansing, T. Enfield

Chair's Report

Executive Committee Report

Education Committee Report

NESTS Committee Report

No Reports Submitted